Claims

- 1. A water-in-oil-in-water edible emulsion comprising :
 - an internal aqueous phase comprising live micro-organisms;

17

- a lipid phase to protect micro-organisms, said internal aqueous phase and said lipid phase forming a primary water-in-oil emulsion:
- a conservation external aqueous phase in which the primary emulsion is dispersed wherein the external aqueous phase comprises between 0.1 % and 9 % of organic acids.
- 2. An emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the internal aqueous phase has a maximal acidity level below 1,5 % acetic acid equivalent.
- 3. An emulsion as claimed in claim 2, wherein the internal aqueous phase comprises micro-organisms based on lactic ferments, lactic yeasts or lactic bacteria, either mixed or not.
- 4. An emulsion as claimed in claim 3, wherein the internal aqueous phase is comprised of a mixture of water and of a carrier for the micro-organisms.
- 5. An emulsion as claimed in claim 4, wherein the carrier is formed by yoghurt or cottage cheese.
- 6. An emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein micro-organisms are selected among the following strains: Lactobacillus Bulgaricus, lactobacillus Casei, Lactobacillus Acidophilus,

18

Lactococcus Lactis, Streptococcus Thermophilus, Bifidobacterium Bifidum, Bifidobacterium Lingum.

- 7. An emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lipid phase is based on vegetable oil and on a lipophilic emulsifier to yield a water-in-oil emulsion with the internal aqueous phase.
- 8. An emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the internal aqueous phase: lipid phase weight ratio is in the range of 1:1 to 1:4, preferably 15:25 to 15:60.
- 9. An emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the primary emulsion: external aqueous phase weight ratio is ranging from 80:20 to 40:60.
- 10. An emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the droplet size in the primary emulsion is below or equal to 5 microns, preferably below or equal to 1 micron.
- 11. An emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the droplet size in the final emulsion ranges from 1 to 200 microns.
- 12. Dressing or side sauce, notably salad sauce, comprising an emulsion according to claim 1.
- 13. A dressing or a side sauce, notably a salad sauce, as claimed in claim 12, wherein it comprises flavouring ingredients in admixture with the emulsion.